

ARACHNIODES, A FERN GENUS UNRECOGNIZED FROM HAWAII

Otto & Isa Degener

Thanks to the lucid article by M. D. Tindale in *Contr. New South Wales Nat. Herb.* 3 (2): 89--90. 1961, we find the genus Arachniodes Blume (*Enum. Pl. Jav.* 241. 1828) to be represented in the Hawaiian Islands by a form of what has been hitherto known locally as Dryopteris (Polystichopsis) carvifolia (Kuntze) C. Christensen, *Bull. B. P. Bishop Mus.* 25: 10. 1925. We herewith place this species in its proper genus as Arachniodes carvifolia (Kuntze) Deg. & Deg., comb. nov.

BOOK REVIEWS

Alma L. Moldenke

"Plant Life of Palestine Israel and Jordan", by Michael Zohary; vi and 262 pp., illustr. Ronald Press, New York City, 1962. \$8.00

This new member of the worthy *Chronica Botanica* New Series of Plant Science Books presents readably the dedicated study over a few score years of the taxonomy, geography, ecology, physiology and economic importance of the native wild, the introduced wild and the cultivated plants of the area. The author is fortunate to have additionally a backlog of nearly two centuries of plant collections from this Palestinian area, the assistance of an able crew of fellow scientists and a public -- locally and abroad -- very much interested in these studies.

The text is organized ecologically. The nomenclature employed is not one of the many still-forming American systems, but that of the Zürich-Montpellier School led by Braun-Blanquet. Much simplified, the plant habitats are semi-humid, semi-arid and arid. The rainfall varies annually from 1,000 mm. in the north down to 25 mm. in the south, with about 75 percent of the precipitation felt in December, January and February.

Data is presented so effectively that one can easily envision the plant growth as the following items indicate: There are 718 genera with 2250 species recorded, with the bulk of the plant cover composed of ten percent of the species. There is no alpine or subalpine flora. The greatest numbers of species are from the